United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1176
6 July 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in address at Ministerial Segment of Economic and Social Council, proposes "flexible, high-level intersessional mechanism" for swift response to new developments in economic and social sphere.

+ Madagascar, on behalf of Group of African States, requests urgent meeting of Security Council to "examine issue of violence in South Africa".

+ United Nations inspection team denied access to Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for on-site inspection; monitoring of premises continues.

+ World Food Programme to aid Madagascar drought victims and Zairean refugees.

* * *

In his opening statement at the two-day High-level segment of the 1992 Economic and Social Council session this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended to the participating Ministers that the Council introduce a flexible, high-level intersesssional mechanism, which would enable the Council and its bureau to respond in a continuing and timely way to new developments in the economic and social sphere. It should possess an "early warning" function, encompassing threats to security and well-being from such perils as the energy crisis, the burden of debt, the risk of famine and the spread of disease.

Pointing to the need for an "integrated approach" to the problems of this "new era", the Secretary-General called for a "change in the structure and methods of work throughout the United Nations system". Over the years, the complexity of the system, combined with its fragmentation and bureaucratization, had inhibited the role the Organization should play in the economic and social fields. Each of the principal organs, he added, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, had "a special and indispensable role to play in an integrated approach to human security in all its dimensions: political, social and economic".

(more)

The Secretary-General also addressed the need for coordination, stating that the resources of the entire United Nations system, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and the development programmes needed to be harnessed in international cooperation for the diminution of poverty and the realization of economic opportunity for all.

The Secretary-General noted a Summit for Social Development had been proposed in order to build a network of communications where "few bridges or roads exist today".

The restructured Economic and Social Council session has been divided into three segments, the first of which is the high-level segment with ministerial participation by a number of countries in a discussion of the role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation for development.

The two other segments concern the coordination of policies and activities of the United Nations bodies and agencies, and operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

* * *

A meeting of the Security Council to consider the situation in South Africa has been requested by Madagascar, on behalf of the Group of African States. The request, made in the context of a resolution adopted at the meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) last month, calls for "the urgent convening of a meeting ... to examine the issue of violence in South Africa and to take all appropriate action to put an end to it as well as to create conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition towards a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa".

The OAU resolution expressed grave concern about the "escalation of violence in South Africa targeted at black communities and, in particular the recent massacre at Boipatong Township", and the need for the international community to investigate the causes of the violence and to adopt the necessary measures for its early end.

In a related development, an International Hearing on Political Violence in South Africa, co-sponsored by the Special Committee against Apartheid and organized by the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, has been scheduled for 14 and 15 July in London.

The Chairman of the Special Committee, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), will deliver the keynote address and the Most Reverend Trevor Huddleston, President of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, will preside over the Hearing. Testimony will be presented by South Africans as well as international legal and human rights organizations. The participants will consider measures - including contributions the international community can make - to sustain the process of peaceful negotiations on the transition to democracy in South Africa.

(more)

Secretary-General told a press conference in London on Thursday, 1 July, that the United Nations was considering ways to help bring about the resumption of talks in South Africa, though any such move would require the support of the South African Government and the Security Council. He is expected to report to the Security Council on talks he held last week while in Nigeria, Senegal and the United Kingdom concerning the South African situation. Document S/24232

* * *

The Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament has reported that a United Nations inspection team had been denied access to what Iraq termed the headquarters building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation which had been designated for inspection in accordance with Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Iraq claimed that no activities related to section C of that resolution were undertaken in the building.

According to a press release issued by the Special Commission, this refusal to allow access was contrary to resolution 687 and 707 (1992) as well as the status agreement between Iraq and the Commission. The Special Commission is mandated by the Security Council to monitor and to inspect the activities of the Iraqi authorities in the area of weapons of mass destruction - biological, chemical and nuclear.

The team has been monitoring the exits of the facility since its arrival on Sunday, 5 July, to ensure that evidence is not removed. The Chairman of the Special Commission, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, was expected to brief Security Council members today on the situation in Baghdad during consultations.

* * *

Some 320,000 victims of the southern African drought in Madagascar, and 15,000 Zairean refugees are to receive emergency assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP), according to two recent announcements.

The Agency said it would provide the most seriously affected populations in Madagascar with some 25,000 metric tonnes food aid, costing $8 million over an eight-month period, in order to avert an unfolding tragedy of mass deaths from starvation. According to the WFP this year's drought is worse than one which occurred in 1986, leaving thousands of people dead from starvation. It is the second time this year that the Agency has provided relief to Madagascar, which is also in the grip of an economic crisis following months of strikes and political instability. Some 700,000 people are currently in need of food-aid, the Agency said, and those numbers likely to swell to 1 million by the end of the year.

The Zairean refugees fled their country last February, following military harassment and political unrest, and sought refuge in neighbouring Uganda. So far, the refugees have been assisted by two other relief agencies, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), but food is quickly running out. The WFP says it

(more)

will provide 1,345 metric tonnes of food aid at an estimated cost of $650,000. The rations are expected to feed the refugees for the next six months.

The announcements came as Ministers of the WFP's 36 member States concluded discussions at the eighteenth session of the World Food Council in Nairobi, and launched an appeal to the international community to help reverse Africa's deteriorating food and hunger situation. The Ministers said there could be no peace as long as millions endured poverty and hunger and noted that while most developing regions had made some headway in the 1980s in reducing the number of hungry and malnourished people in their population, Africa had shown the largest increase.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1177
7 July 199[illegible]

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ In Presidential statement, Security Council calls on all parties in Angola to cooperate fully with electoral process; appeals to the Government and UNITA to overcome rapidly "delays and inadequacies".

+ Security Council demands that Iraq immediately agree to give United Nations inspection team access to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad.

+ Large number of relief flights arrive at Sarajevo airport though fighting continues, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

+ Security Council recommends to General Assembly that Georgia be admitted to United Nations membership.

+ At high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session, speakers debate relative importance of reform within United Nations and of international economic relations.

* * *

In a Presidental statement read out tonight by Council President Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Security Council calls on all interested parties in Angola to cooperate fully with the electoral process to ensure that elections are free and fair.

The Council re-emphasises that Angola, being a sovereign and independent country, the organization and supervision of all tasks under the Peace Accords are the responsibility of the Angolan parties themselves. The Council also strongly appeals to the Government and the Uniao Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to overcome rapidly the delays and inadequacies referred to in a report submitted earlier to the Council by the Secretary-General and increase the momentum of progress on the issues of confinment of troops and weapons, demobilization and the formation of the new armed forces and police.

(more)

The Council further expresses its concern at the political and security situation in Angola, which requires the greatest restrain, and calls on the Government and all parties to work closely with the Special Representative and all United Nations agencies engaged in the electoral process to ensure that voter registration is conducted in accordance with established procedures and completed in timely manner.

Finally, the Council announces that il will continue to keep the situation in Angola "under close review" and looks forward to a further report by the Secretary-General at the beginning of the electoral campaign.

The statement issued tonight follows the further report of the Secretary-General dated 24 June 1992 on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II). The report, submitted to the Security Council, assesses that although the Angolans have achieved a great deal in implementing the peace process since the civil war ended 13 months ago, the political and security atmosphere throughout the country "remains tense and could yet derail the process if not contained". The Secretary-General urges therefore all parties, particularly the Government and UNITA, to work together "to reduce the current brinkmanship and bring it under control".

The Angolan elections are scheduled to be held on 29 and 30 September 1992.

* * *

The Security Council has demanded that the Government of Iraq immediately admit United Nations inspectors to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad from which they were barred on Sunday, 5 July.

In a statement on behalf of Council members yesterday, Council President Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) said Iraq's refusal to permit access to premises designated for inspection constituted a "material and unacceptable breach by Iraq" of section C of resolution 687 (1991), which set the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

The statement demanded that Iraq allow the Special Commission and its inspection teams "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wish to inspect".

The Special Commission reported yesterday that its inspection team had been monitoring the exits of the facility since Sunday to ensure that evidence was not removed. The Commission is mandated under the cease-fire resolution to monitor the activities of Iraq in areas such as biological and chemical weapons; ballistic missiles; nuclear-weapons capabilities; as well as Iraq's future compliance with the resolution.

* * *

(more)

In spite of continued shelling in Sarajevo - though lighter than in past weeks - 14 relief flights landed at Butmir airport yesterday -- the fourth day of a United Nations airlift aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to residents of the besieged city.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, reported that its truck convoys carrying supplies between the airport and four city distribution centres had been slowed down by sniper fire. City residents had expressed appreciation for the supplies, but the continuing fighting was still keeping many residents in shelters and away from the vital relief goods supplied by the airlift.

Meanwhile, Ms. Ogata arrived in Ljubljana yesterday to begin a five-day working visit to the region, to get a first-hand view of the needs of the 1.7 million refugees and displaced people in the former Yugoslavia.

* * *

The Security Council yesterday recommended to the General Assembly that Georgia be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. Its admission will bring to 179 the total membership of the United Nations.

The Council waived its procedural time requirement, so that the recommendation could be presented to the resumed forty-sixth session of the Assembly. Usually a recommendation on an application for UN membership must be made not less than 25 days before a regular session of the Assembly or not less than four days in advance of a special session.

After the adoption of the membership resolution, the Council President, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Georgia and said that the members looked forward to "this further strengthening of the principle of universality".

* * *

As the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session continued, speakers debated the relative importance of reform within the United Nations and reform of international economic relations. Reform of intergovernmental machinery was even more important than restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat, Jan Pronk, Minister of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, stated. He also called for a balance between social and economic objectives on the one hand, and political and security objectives on the other.

In conditions of growing interdependence, accelerated integration and globalization of markets, national action alone was not enough to solve global issues, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Stoyan Ganev, said. In that regard, the Economic and Social Council, as a main coordinating body in the social and economic field, had an important contribution to make.

(more)

The Minister of Planning of Morocco, Rachidi El Rhezouani, praised the Secretary-General's appeal in his report to the Council for a new partnership. With the end of ideological confrontation and the heightened priority given to dialogue, now was perhaps the time to envisage the creation of a United Nations fund for third world countries, to be partly financed by reduction in military expenditures.

Speaking during yesterday morning's meeting, the Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, John Bolton, said that the question before the session was whether the Economic and Social Council would become increasingly marginalized or whether its action would begin to have impact on "the real world". He proposed - amongst other changes - that the General Assembly's Second (Economic and Finance) and Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committees be abolished, and power vested instead in an international development council, as suggested by the Nordic countries.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1178
8 July 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Chief of Special Commission's Regional headquarters in Bahrain meets with Iraqi authorities in Baghdad on standoff situation, as inspectors wait to get access to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

+ Security Council President says Council will convene on situation in South Africa on 15 July; seven to nine African Foreign Ministers expected to participate.

+ Funding of development activities comes under spotlight as Economic and Social Council continues with high level segment of session.

* * *

Rolf Ekeus, the Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament told correspondents today that the inspection team which has been denied access to the building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad since Sunday, 5 July, was still waiting for permission to enter.

The Commission had sent Douglas Englund, the Chief of its Regional Headquarters in Bahrain, to Baghdad to try and solve the situation with the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Ekeus emphasized that Mr. Englund had been instructed "not to negotiate", because it was "an absolute obligation" on the part of Iraq to allow United Nations inspectors free access to its facilities, according to resolution 687 (1991) and 707 (1991). However, Mr. Ekeus expressed hope that Mr. Englund could work out the modalities enabling the inspection team to enter the building tomorrow. He called the situation "a matter of principle" and said it was "an absolute challenge to the Security Council". He expressed regret about the current situation, saying that a positive momentum had existed before the incident.

The Commission suspects Iraqi authorities to have stored inside the building documents relevant to various weapon categories, in particular ballistic missiles material, as well as information on military suppliers.

* * *

(more)



For information media—not an official record

The President of the Security Council, José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), told reporters last night that the Council was expected to convene on the question of South Africa on 15 July. Speaking after the Secretary-General had briefed the Council on talks he held last week on the situation in South Africa, the Council President said that "due to the importance that Africans attach to this problem", seven to nine African foreign ministers were expected to participate in the debate.

A formal meeting of the Council on this issue has also been requested by the Chargé d'affaires of Madagascar on behalf of the African Group. The request was made in the context of a resolution adopted at last week's meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), expressing concern about the escalation of violence in South Africa and the breakdown in the talks on the transitional process leading to a non-racist democracy in that country.

* * *

The funding of operational activities came under the spotlight this morning as the Economic and Social Council continued with the high level segment of its 1992 session. Additional resources for development projects were urgently required, Nafis Sadik, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, told the meeting. It was particularly important, she stressed, that that funding be more secure, to allow more stable programming and to decrease the time and effort devoted to fund-raising.

William H. Draper, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, said that it made no sense to go through a painful modernization of the United Nations development system without ensuring adequate resources to carry out this undertaking. To be effective, the system required predictable and significantly increased multi-year resource flows. The United Nations development system had a crucial role to play, but it could only function efficiently if it was given the structure, the governance and the means to do so.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1179
9 July 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General deplores series of incidents in recent days affecting safety of United Nations humanitarian personnel in Iraq, latest of which resulting in injuries to two Australian members of United Nations Guard Contingent.

+ Secretary-General will initiate full investigation of reports alleging illicit use of United Nations aircraft for transport of money and military equipment to one of the factions in Somalia.

+ In letter to Secretary-General, Foreign Minister of South Africa welcomes proposal to send United Nations goodwill mission to that country; United Nations spokesman says proposal has not yet been confirmed.

+ Lord Carrington, Chairman of European Conference on Yugoslavia, proposes to send letters to three parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina urging them to restart negotiations.

+ Secretary-General expresses hope that Economic and Social Council will become "Council of the twenty-first century", in address at the conclusion of high-level segment of current session.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs announces plans for updated appeal for Horn of Africa; World Food Programme steps up its relief efforts in southern Africa.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today in a statement that he considered recent attacks against United Nations relief personnel assigned to Iraq under the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme "totally unacceptable". The statement follows an incident in which two Austrian members of the United Nations Guards Contingent were injured.

(more)



For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General demanded that such incidents cease forthwith and said he expected the full cooperation of Government authorities in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of United Nations personnel.

* * *

Reports reaching the Secretary-General from Mogadishu today alleged that an aircraft previously chartered by the United Nations was subsequently used for the illicit transport of money and military equipment intended for delivery to one of the factions in the Somali capital.

In a statement today, the Secretary-General noted that the aircraft was said to be still carrying the insignia of the United Nations while engaged in the activity mentioned above. He announced that he was taking steps for a full investigation of this incident.

Explaining the incident to correspondents, the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director, Catherine Bertini, said the aircraft concerned was Russian and had been leased by the WFP. The contract ended on 24 June, and the aircraft was to have returned to Moscow for repairs and re-assignment. However, with no authorization from WFP, those operating the plane took upon themselves to transport another shipment. "This was unfortunate, particularly because we had not painted over the sign that said 'UN-WFP', and therefore there have been some allegations that we were involved in this other shipment", she said.

The WFP had notified the proper authorities as soon as the plane was in the air, she said.

* * *

The Government of South Africa has welcomed a proposal by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to send a United Nations Goodwill mission to the country to consult with all relevant parties, organizations and experts on a resumption of the talks on a democratic and non-racial South Africa. The mission would be led by Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State of the United States. A United Nations spokesman cautioned today that the proposal had not yet been officially confirmed.

In his letter to the Secretary-General, dated 8 July, the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik Botha, said his Government considered it of the "utmost importance" that the negotiations resume as soon as possible. He urged the leaders of the major parties in South Africa jointly to accept responsibility for further steps to curb violence.

The letter stressed that the mission must report on all aspects of the situation to the Secretary-General so that he would be able to inform the Security Council on the "factual situation". The Council would "not be in a position to conduct a balanced debate on the situation in South Africa unless it has all the facts and points of view before it", it said.

(more)

Council President José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde said on Tuesday that the Council would hold a formal meeting on the situation in South Africa on Wednesday, 15 July. He said seven to nine African foreign ministers were expected to participate in the debate.

In a press briefing today, Chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid, Ibrahim Garbari, said the Committee had not received any "official confirmation" of the dispatch of Cyrus Vance or any other person to South Africa. He confirmed however that Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), and Clarence Makwetu, President of the Pan Africanist Congress would attend the Security Council meeting on 15 July.
S/24255

* * *

Lord Carrington, Chairman of the European Conference on Yugoslavia, told correspondents today, after he had briefed the Security Council on his visit to Sarajevo and on the situation in the region, that he had proposed to send letters to the leaders of the three parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina urging them to restart the negotiations in London in the near future.

In reply to questions about the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, Lord Carrington said they were "having some effect". Serbian President Milosevic had told him that Serbian groups who had refused to hold talks three weeks ago were now prepared to talk about a settlement. Lord Carrington suggested that that might have "something to do with the sanctions" and noted that "sanctions take rather longer to work than everyone expects and sometime they do not work at all".

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said yesterday that he hoped the Economic and Social Council would become as active and important an organ as the Security Council and that it would become the Council of the twenty-first century. Addressing the final meeting of the Council's high-level segment, he stressed the importance of Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro last month, calling it the cornerstone of international cooperation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also said that it would be wrong to view economic and social development in isolation from peace and security. They were inextricably linked; there could not be economic and social development without peace and security just as there could not be peace and security without economic and social peace. It was imperative that the gap between the rich and the poor countries be bridged. There was also a need for the United Nations to bring pressure to bear on "certain points" such as satisfactory access to finance by developing countries; debt relief; and redirection of military expenditure to productive activities.

(more)

The Council today began the coordination segment of its session, with attention focused on the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as they relate to economic and social objectives.

* * *

Plans for an updated appeal for the Horn of Africa, covering the food and non-food relief needs for some 23 million people in the region are under way. The announcement was made yesterday by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson.

The revised appeal will include the outstanding requirements of Ethiopia, including Eritrea, the Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Kenya for the next six months. Although a special appeal was launched for Kenya last month, Mr. Eliasson stressed that it covered only the most pressing needs of the most vulnerable drought-affected Kenyans and refugees.

An earlier appeal for the Horn of Africa, issued on 1 February, requesting some $621 million from the international donor community has fallen short of its target by over $100 million.

In southern Africa, the World Food Programme (WFP) is stepping up its relief efforts, according to the new Executive Director of the WFP, Catherine Bertini. She told reporters at a press briefing today that some 18 million people were potentially affected by the drought, described as the worst in living memory in the region, and that it was critically important that the required quantities of food aid be successfully distributed to those in need.

Of the 1,645,000 tons needed for "targeted food aid" for the poor who have no other means of acquiring food, 66 percent had been pledged, she said. Of the 2,540,000 tons of "programme food aid", for the marketplace for those with the money to pay for food, only 34 percent had been pledged by donor governments so far.

The operation was costing $316 million, half as much as WFP's entire emergency budget for last year, and was the largest food aid delivery ever handled by the WFP.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1180
10 July 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations spokesman says Secretary-General has informed Security Council that he will not send fact-finding mission to South Africa before Council meeting scheduled for 15 July.

+ Secretary-General says parties to Western Sahara conflict have finished first round of talks with his Special Representative, aimed at reactivating Settlement Plan; talks to continue.

+ Secretary-General, in message at Summit meeting in Helsinki, urges Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to strengthen its structures and procedures for crisis prevention, crisis management and peaceful settlement of disputes.

+ World Population Day will be observed by more than 150 countries tomorrow, 11 July.

+ World population now totals estimated 5.5 billion, according to figures released by Population Division of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had informed the Security Council that he would not be sending a fact-finding mission to South Africa before the formal meeting of the Council, which has been scheduled for 15 July. He further announced that the Council would hold consultations on South Africa and Cyprus on Monday, 13 July. The Foreign Minister of South Africa, Pik Botha, was expected to arrive in New York on Monday.

The spokesman pointed out that although it was expected that a mission would be sent to South Africa after the meeting, the Council might decide otherwise. He added that Nelson Mandela, the President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) had not yet notified the Council

(more)



For information media--not an official record

whether he would attend the Council meeting or not. The Council had decided during consultations that all the parties to CODESA would be allowed to address the Council if they wished.

* * *

The Secretary-General, in a statement issued today, said that as announced in his report of 29 May 1992, each party to the Western Sahara conflict had agreed to hold talks with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, in an effort to reactivate the Settlement Plan deadlocked for several months. The first round of these talks, which involved consultations with the parties in Geneva, Rabat, Tindouf and New York, concluded on 2 July 1992.

The Secretary-General has been briefed on the results of the talks and has agreed that they would continue over the coming weeks along lines to which both parties have already consented. He expressed the hope that the way could be cleared for holding a referendum under United Nations auspices to determine the future status of Western Sahara.

"It is the Secretary-General's expectation that both parties will continue to cooperate fully with the Special Representative in his efforts to reactivate the process leading toward the referendum in Western Sahara and that, in this spirit, they will refrain from any action which might adversely affect the progress of these efforts", the statement concluded.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to strengthen its institutional structures and procedures for crisis prevention, crisis management and peaceful settlement of disputes. Peace-keeping through available mechanisms could add an important dimension to regional stability, he said.

The statement was contained in a message read out by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Vladimir Petrovsky, at the Summit meeting of the CSCE in Helsinki on 8 July.

The Secretary-General said in the message that the United Nations had maintained close contact with the CSCE with regard to the dispute in Nagorno-Karabakh and had sent two fact-finding missions to the area. But the United Nations could only benefit in the pursuit of its own objectives if the CSCE developed an effective machinery for decision-making, verification and mutual assistance.

Pointing to the present ethnic and social tension in certain regions, the Secretary-General said security was not limited to a military dimension; most international conflicts had deep economic roots. He urged the CSCE to strive not only for greater economic cooperation in Europe, but to help developing

(more)

countries in other parts of the world. National boundaries were no bulwark to keep out destructive forces, he said. Refugees and displaced persons were both sources and consequences of conflict that must not be ignored.

* * *

Tomorrow, Saturday, 11 July, is World Population Day. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the day will be observed by more than 150 countries, with events designed to focus attention on population growth. Among the activities planned are rallies, seminars and media programmes, including the broadcast by a number of national television systems of a video produced by UNFPA entitled "Towards a World in Balance".

At Headquarters today, the Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Nafis Sadik, announced the winners of a poster competition sponsored by the organization to promote awareness and understanding of population issues. There were 12 winners, ranging in age from six to 18 years, with three winners from each of four age categories. They were selected from 134 finalists from 36 countries. The winning posters will be produced by UNFPA and distributed internationally through their offices.

World Population Day was first observed in 1987 when the total population reached 5 billion. In a statement today, Dr. Sadik said that bringing the significance of population growth to the attention of as large an audience as possible was critical in enlisting national leaders and grass-roots support for programmes aimed at slowing population growth.

The world population now totals an estimated 5.5 billion, according to the 1992 revision of the projections prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD).

Growing at a rate of 1.7 per cent per annum, the world population will increase by 93 million during 1992. By the end of the century, according to DESD, the total will have risen by nearly 14 per cent, to 6.2 billion, reaching 8.5 billion by 2025. These increments will occur even though the population growth rate is projected to decline to only 1.0 per cent a year.

* * *

Correction to Thursday Hightlights, 9 July:

The headline for the first story in yesterday's highlights should have read:

+ Secretary-General deplores series of incidents in recent days affecting safety of United Nations humanitarian personnel in Iraq, latest of which resulting in injuries to two Austrian members of United Nations Guard Contingent.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1181
13 July 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends increase in strength of United Nations Protection Force at Sarajevo airport to 1,600 personnel; Security Council to consider request.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, welcomes Secretary-General's intention to invite leaders of two sides in Cyprus to joint meeting and to convene international high-level meeting to conclude Overall Framework Agreement, as soon as proximity talks reveal that two leaders are within agreement range.

+ Security Council holds consultations on letter from Croatian President calling for military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina to end conflict in that region, and letter from Bosnian President calling attention to escalation of violence in Gorazde, among other letters on the situation in the region.

+ Secretary-General installs Commission on Truth to investigate acts of violence in El Salvador.

+ Human Rights Committee begins forty-fifth session at Geneva during which it will examine reports by States on measures taken to implement International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

* * *

Describing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as "one of the worst humanitarian emergencies of our time", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) at Sarajevo airport be increased to some 1,600 personnel. The enlargement of the Force, for a four-month period from mid-June to mid-October 1992, would amount to some $22.7 million. The recommendation must now be considered by the Security Council.

(more)



For information media—not an official record

In a further report to the Security Council, dated 10 July, the Secretary-General explained that the need for air traffic control, an artillery-locating radar platoon, a helicopter unit and a medical unit, among other things, had raised the number of personnel required in Sarajevo.

The Chief Commander of UNPROFOR, General Satish Nambiar, had informed the Secretary-General that he was "greatly perturbed by the situation" in Sarajevo, and by the many reports and indications of deteriorating conditions throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretary-General said it was clear that despite an encouraging start, the Sarajevo airport operation was based upon "foundations of the utmost fragility". In addition, the provision of humanitarian aid to the rest of the country was "sparse, intermittent, and harzardous".

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated in his report that "the current success of the airport operation" was an "outstanding tribute to the determination and courage of all who are participating in it". But their endeavours, he added, "have not yet stimulated a corresponding initiative by the parties to seek a lasting peace based on a political settlement". Only urgent efforts by the international community to address the basic causes of the conflict, including negotiations with all the parties involved in it, could resolve the conflict in the region, he said.

* * *

In a Presidential statement read out by Council President José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) this afternoon, the Security Council has welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to invite the leaders of two sides in Cyprus to a joint meeting and to convene international high-level meeting to conclude Overall Framework Agreement, as soon as proximity talks reveal that the two leaders are within agreement range.

While welcoming the separate meetings between the leaders the Secretary-General at Headquarters from 18 to 23 June, the Council noted with satisfaction that the discussions focused on the issues of territorial adjustements, displaced persons and other issues that make up the set of ideas on a overall framework agreement.

The Council also praised the acceptance by the leaders of the two communities to resume their meetings with the Secretary-General on 15 July and to remain "for such reasonable duration as may be necessary to complete the work". Calling on both leaders to be ready to take the necessary decisions "to reach agreement on each of the issues as dealt with in the set of ideas as an integrated whole on an overall framework agreement", the statement said the forthcoming meetings represented "a determining phase in the Secretary-General's effort".

The present proximity talks on Cyprus - which were interrupted on 23 June due to the Secretary-General's absence from Headquarters - took place in New York in the framework of Security Council resolution 750 of 10 April, which asked the Secretary-General to take up intensive efforts "to complete a set of

(more)

ideas during May and June 1992". By that resolution, the Council had further asked the Secretary-General "to submit a full report to the Council of his efforts by July 1992 at the latest and to make specific recommendations for overcoming any outstanding difficulties".

* * *

The Security Council was holding consultations this afternoon on a number of letters concerning different aspects of the continuing crisis in former Yugoslavia.

In a letter, dated 11 July, Bosnian President Alija Izebegovic called for an urgent meeting of the Council "in order to send an ultimatum to Serbia and Montenegro to stop their criminal attack against the innocent citizens of Gorazde". Mr. Izebegovic called the situation, "unprecedented " and said it represented "the twilight of civilization".

In a letter dated 12 July, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman pointed to an "avalanche of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina", which he said had led to insurmountable difficulties in his country. Over 20,000 "panic-stricken" refugees had fled in one 24-hour period across the Croatian border, he said, pointing out that as the world focuses on Sarajevo, the Serbian and Montenegrin aggressors were "escalating their attacks on other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Mr. Tudjman stressed that the only remaining solution to halt the aggression lay in the "rapid and energetic international intervention by military forces". President Tudjman's letter was transmitted to the President of the Security Council by Zdenko Skrabalo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia.

Another letter, dated 13 June, from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey, called attention to the "escalating brutal aggression" by the Belgrade regime, not only in Gorazde, but in other areas of his country. In view of that situation, he requested that the Council take "all steps necessary including air power, to stop this humanitarian nightmare" from deepening, and he asked that the Council initiate relief flights to Tuzla, a city north of Sarajevo. Ambassador Sacirbey suggested that the city's airport and environs could be used as an efficient distribution point for relief to Goradze and other desperate towns nearby.

* * *

The Commission on the Truth -- established by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) under the Mexico Agreements of April 1991 -- was formally installed this morning at Headquarters in the presence of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The Commission has been set up to investigate serious acts of violence that have occurred in El Salvador since 1980 and whose impact on society "urgently demands that the public should know the truth".

The Commission is mandated to consider the exceptional importance that may be attached to the acts to be investigated, their characteristics and

(more)

impact, and the social unrest to which they gave rise, as well as the need to create confidence in the positive changes which the peace process is promoting and to assist the transition to national reconciliation.

The Commission is composed of three members appointed by previous Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. They are: Belisario Betancour, former President of Colombia; Reinaldo Figueredo, former Foreign Minister of Venezuela; and Professor Thomas Buergenthal, former President of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights and Honorary President of the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights. The Commission is expected to publish a report within six months. Already, the Government and FMLN have agreed to cooperate fully with the Commission and to comply with its recommendations.

The three members of the Commission and its Executive Director are scheduled to travel to El Salvador tomorrow to commence their work.

* * *

In Geneva, the Human Rights Committee began today its forty-fifth session during which it will examine reports by a number of countries on measures they have taken to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee, composed of 18 experts serving in their personal capacity, will examine reports submitted by the Republic of Korea, Belarus, Mongolia, Peru and Burundi to promote and protect human rights in those countries.

During the two-week session - the second of three scheduled this year - the Committee will also study communications from individuals claiming to be victims of a violation of any of the rights proclaimed in the covenant. There are 148 such communications pending from earlier sessions. The Committee will also discuss preparatory activities relating to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, to be held at Vienna, and to consider ways of contributing to the process.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1182
14 July 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General scheduled to meet today with President of the African National Congress and with leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, on the eve of Security Council meeting on the situation in South Africa; over thirty speakers scheduled for debate.

+ Security Council yesterday authorized strengthening of peace-keeping force at Sarajevo airport by 1,600 personnel; cost now estimated to be $22.7 million for four months.

+ Chief inspector of Special Commission inspection team in Baghdad tells press of standoff outside Agriculture Ministry; Commission spokesman explains teams's reason for demanding access to building.

+ Failure to invest in preventive approaches to acquired immunodeficiency sydrome (AIDS) pandemic will mean having to take far more difficult, expensive action, Director of World Health Organization's Global Strategy on AIDS told Social and Economic Council yesterday.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, and Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party. The two men, along with several African leaders and South African Government officials, are expected to participate in tomorrow's formal Security Council meeting on the situation in South Africa. A total of 35 speakers have already been scheduled to address the Council.

The meeting has been convened at the request of the member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), who expressed grave concern about the violence targeted at black communities, in particular the June 17 massacre in Boipotang township, in which some 40 people were killed. The OAU members called on the Security Council to examine the issue of violence in South

(more)



For information media—not an official record

Africa and to take appropriate steps to end it and to bring about the resumption of negotiations on a transition to non-racial democracy in that country.

In London today, a joint United Nations/British Anti-Apartheid Movement international hearing on violence in South Africa has just concluded. In a statement following the hearings, the Chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), said he would bring supporting evidence and documents presented during the hearings to the President of the Security Council. Ambassador Gambari said he would request that the material be made part of the official documents of the Security Council, "to enrich their understanding of the true dimensions of the problem in South Africa."

* * *

The Security Council last night authorized the Secretary-General to immediately deploy additional elements of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to ensure the security and functioning of Sarajevo airport and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Council's action followed its consideration of a further report of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on developments relating to a reopening of Sarajevo airport under the auspices of UNPROFOR, in which he recommended that the Force be increased by some 1,600 personnel, at a revised estimated cost of $22.7 million for a four-month period, from mid-June to mid-October 1992.

By unanimously adopting resolution 764 (1992), the Council also called on all parties and others concerned to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR and the international humanitarian agencies to facilitate the evacuation, by air, of cases of special humanitarian concern and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid to other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council called again on all parties concerned to resolve their differences through a negotiated political solution to the problems of the region and, to that end, to cooperate with the renewed efforts of the European Community with the support of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), within the framework of the Conference on Yugoslavia and, in particular, to respond positively to the invitation of the Chairman of the Conference to talks on 15 July.

* * *

The standoff in Baghdad between the United Nations Special Commission inspection team and the Iraqi authorities continued today outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, where the inspectors have been denied access since 5 June. At a press briefing at Headquarters today, Major Karen Jansen, a chemical and biological weapons expert and Chief Inspector of the team, said the inspectors were looking for documents relating to Iraq's ballistic missile proscribed programme which they had been told might be in the Ministry building. She also described acts of harassment by demonstrators in Baghdad.

(more)

"One of the demonstrations involved the throwing of food on the vehicles themselves, a number of instances of our rooms being rifled, going through personnel effect in our suitcases.... The team understood that that was going to happen, but at the same time I must say the team felt very, very firm that we were there for the right reason and this was a properly designated site ... and we were going to wait until we had access to carry out the rest of our inspections," she said.

Special Commission spokesman, Tim Trevan, also speaking at the briefing today, emphasized the Commission's belief that the Ministry held large numbers of documents related to Iraq's ballistic missile programme. He said the Commission had had sufficient evidence in the past that Iraq had used "innocuous sounding" places to hide either equipment or documents.

"The Agriculture Ministry itself is not totally unrelated to our activities as a whole either. One of our tasks is to make sure that Iraq does not reacquire weapons that are prohibited to it, and to do that we have to plan for ongoing monitoring of capable and dual-purpose facilities. In the biological weapons sphere this would naturally involve ascertaining sites which are used for activities in the civilian arena but which could be used for illegal purposes."

* * *

Failure to invest in preventive approaches to the acquired immunodeficiency sydrome (AIDS) pandemic would necessitate action that would be far more difficult, expensive and complicated than prevention, Dr. M.H. Merson, Director of the World Health Organization's Global Strategy on AIDS warned yesterday, as the Social and Economic Council coordination segment began its examination of United Nations efforts to combat the disease.

Speakers underlined the urgency of the need to stem its spread, coordination of domestic and international plans, and the cultural and ethical considerations surrounding the disease. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, Ji Chaouzhu, said that given the insidious spread of HIV/AIDS and its socio-political impact on the already fragile situation in many countries, it was imperative that effective policies and programmes be formulated to mitigate its consequences.

Elizabeth Reid, Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) HIV and Development Programme, said the AIDS pandemic would force the international community to reform the "outrageous disparity" between the significant resources allocated domestically for social programmes and the small per cent of official development assistance which funded the global safety net.

Only the individual could change sexual behaviour, she said, but the individual could change norms and values only when supported by the community.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1183
15 July 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ As Security Council meeting on South Africa begins, Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress, and Djibo Ka, Foreign Minister of Senegal, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, call for appointment of Special Representative to investigate situation in South Africa.

+ Secretary-General resumes separate meetings with leaders of Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, aimed at formulating specific recommendations for overcoming outstanding difficulties.

+ Iraq has met its obligations towards the resolutions of Security Council, so maintenance of the embargo has lost its meaning, observes Iraqi Foreign Minister in letter to Secretary-General.

+ Government of Iraq informs Secretary-General of its decision not to participate in sixth session of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, scheduled to be held between 15 and 24 July in New York.

+ Secretary-General issues updated Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Horn of Africa, totalling $541 million for next six months.

* * *

Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC), addressing this afternoon the opening meeting of the Security Council on the situation in South Africa, said the ANC had had no choice but to withdraw from negotiations with the South African authorities because of the Government's failure to "end the carnage" in the country. He reaffirmed however the ANC's commitment to the negotiation process embodied in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), and called for the appointment of a Special Representative to investigate the situation in South Africa, recommend measures to help end the violence and monitor the implementation of such measures.

Mr. Mandela indicated that the South-African Government attributed the violence to conflict between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and

(more)



For information media—not an official record

insisted that the two parties enter into an agreement. He said the IFP was not an independent force with which the ANC could enter into such an agreement, since it was used as an instrument and surrogate of the Government, and was financed and armed by the Government.

The violence, like apartheid, he said, was a direct challenge to the Security Council and its role as a global protector of human rights. Failure "to act firmly and decisively could not but undermine its prestige and authority at a time when the Council and the United Nations as a whole are called upon to play an even more active role in the ordering of world affairs."

The Foreign Minister of Senegal, Djibo Ka, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), opened the proceedings. Also proposing that a Special Representative of the Secretary-General be designated for South Africa, he said such a person would draw on the "open, faithful and honest cooperation of all parties concerned". He then invited the Council to take action on this proposal.

The system of apartheid, he said, spelled the negation of human dignity and had spawned structural violence, including the "most lascerating and reprehensible" act of violence - the Boipotang massacre. In the eyes of the OAU, the Government of South Africa must be made responsible if it wished to remain credible.

Mr. Ka concluded by saying that the Security Council was the best possible place for a solution to the crisis, and a United Nations presence in South Africa could help to consolidate measures to combat violence, restore a climate of security and help create conditions whereby the negotiating process of the Conference for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) could be relaunched.

A number of speakers took the floor this afternoon, as the Security Council is expected to continue its debate on the situation in South Africa tomorrow.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today resumed in New York his separate meetings with the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, according to the Secretary-General's spokesman. The first round of the present proximity talks - started 18 June at United Nations headquarters - had been interrupted due to Secretary-General's absence from New York. The talks are held in the framework of Security Council resolution 750 of 10 April, which asked the Secretary-General to take up intensive efforts "to complete a set of ideas during May and June 1992" and "to submit a full report to the Council of his efforts by July 1992 at the latest, and to make specific recommendations for overcoming any outstanding difficulties".

In a Presidential statement adopted on Monday, 13 July, prior to the resumption of the talks, the Council members called on both leaders - President Vassiliou and M. Rauf Denktash - to be ready to take the necessary decisions "to reach agreement on each of the issues as dealt with in the set

of ideas as an integrated whole on an overall framework agreement". They also noted with satisfaction that the discussions focused on the issues of territorial adjustments, displaced persons and other issues which are part of the set of ideas on a overall framework agreement.

The present round of meetings will continue for "such reasonable duration as may be necessary" to complete the work.

* * *

Iraq has met its obligations towards the resolutions of the Security Council. Therefore, the maintenance of the embargo against that country has lost its meaning, observed Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein in a letter dated 11 July to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Iraqi Foreign Minister further noted that there is no provision for the embargo, "either explicitly or implicitly", in the Charter of the United Nations or the resolutions of the Security Council", and "its continuation destroys the legal basis of the Security Council resolutions and accords Iraq, if it should wish, the right to act towards those resolutions on a basis of ability and opportunity and not on the basis of a persuasive legal obligation".

The Iraqi Foreign Minister also stressed that his country had undertaken to comply with the Security Council resolutions - including the destruction of all its prohibited weapons and the return of Kowait to the state "desired by those who so zealously promoted the Security Council resolutions". However, he said, the embargo imposed on Iraq since 6 August 1990 "had remained as it was, unchanged from the initial format", and that "numerous restrictions and complexities" imposed on his country's capability to export its oil prevented the people of Iraq from benefiting from "the revenues from the quantity of petroleum exported over six months for the purchase of food and medicine".

The Foreign Minister of Iraq also suggested that the Security Council allow Iraq to export its petroleum "in a normal and regular manner,...so that its people may have its humanitarian due".

* * *

The Government of Iraq informed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of its decision not to participate in the sixth session of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, scheduled to take place between 15 and 24 July in New York.

In a letter dated 12 July and addressed to the Secretary General, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein said that "it is clear...that the views of Iraq will not be heard in the Commission and that it will not provide an opportunity for a hearing regardless of any efforts...to create an objective and impartial atmosphere for its work".

The Iraqi Foreign Minister also charged the Commission of conducting its work in a manner detrimental to his country's interests, "because a prior and

(more)

biased decision has been taken to harm Iraq's interests and deny its historic rights on the part of those countries that planned the Commission's work".

A spokesman for the Secretary-General told correspondents today that, according to the operating rules of procedure, the Commission could conduct its business without the Iraqi presence, and "proceed with the planned agenda, which includes the matter of off-shore boundary". However, indicated the spokesman, the matter of Iraqi absence from the meeting was expected to be taken up.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today issued an updated Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Horn of Africa, totalling $541 million for the next six months.

It is clear, he said, that special efforts were called for to contain population movements and prevent the problems of one country from spilling over to neighbours. The Secretary-General stressed the importance of a regional approach "which seeks to pool the human and financial resources of United Nations agencies and our partners in a holistic effort to assist people where they are located, regardless of whether they are refugees, returnees, displaced persons, drought-affected, or simply local residents who also need assistance".

The Secretary-General had launched a Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Horn of Africa last January. The appeal requested $621 million for the most urgent requirements of millions of men, women and children at serious risk. $576 million had been raised on that occasion.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1184
16 July 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council concludes two-day meeting on South Africa by unanimously adopting resolution inviting Secretary-General to appoint Special Representative to recommend measures to end violence and create conditions for peaceful transition to democracy in that country.

+ In special report, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says that despite the refusal of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) to comply with the regroupment and the cantonment process, he has asked his Special Representative in Cambodia to press forward with the process, "wherever possible"; urges full compliance by all parties with Paris Agreements.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that leaders of Serbian Democratic Party refuse to allow Agency to enter beseiged city of Goradze to evaluate the humanitarian needs; also reports that 15,000 Afgan refugees a day are returning to their country.

+ Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament has left for Iraq to secure for United Nations inspection team immediate access to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad.

+ Introducing World Investment Report 1992, United Nations officials tell Washington Press Club developing countries need help to attract the billions of dollars in annual foreign direct investment.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon concluded its two-day meeting on South Africa with the adoption of a resolution inviting the Secretary-General to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative to recommend measures which would assist in bringing an effective end to the violence in that country, and in creating conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

The resolution also strongly urges the South African authorities to take immediate measures to bring an effective end to the ongoing violence and to bring those responsible to justice. It also urges the international community

(more)

to maintain the existing measures imposed by the Security Council for the purpose of bringing an early end to apartheid in South Africa.

The meeting, which was addressed by approximately 75 speakers over the two days, was called at the request of the Group of African States, in the context of a resolution by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It was attended by the Foreign Minister of South Africa, Roelof Botha, the President of the African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela, the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), Gatsha Buthelezi, and by Foreign Ministers of nine African countries and leaders of the various South African parties.

Opening today's meeting, South African Foreign Minister, Roelof (Pik) Botha, indicated that his Government was committed to moving as speedily as possible towards agreement on a new constitution for South Africa. Negotiation, he said, was not the best alternative. It was the only alternative.

He further said that the causes of the violence in South Africa were both complex and multi-dimensional. However, he said, his Government, although accepting the primary responsibility for maintaining order, can not be singled out for the tragic events. The other parties to the National Peace Accord can not be absolved from their commitments.

Mr. Botha quoted reports of ANC weapons arsenals both inside and outside South Africa. He said the reports were cause for grave concern, but added that there was "therefore all the more reason for us to talk about these matters rather than simply walking away from the negotiating process."

Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, discussing where blame lay for the violence in the country, recalled that the ANC had "suspended" rather than "halted" its armed struggle against the Government.

Other speakers, while acknowledging the progress made by the De Klerk Government towards abolishing apartheid and moving towards a non-racial democracy, stressed its responsibility for the ongoing violence in the country. Though some expressed reservations about what a United Nations monitoring team or Special Representative could achieve, they supported the idea of an international presence in South Africa to foster domestic efforts to achieve peace and forge a democratic system of government.

* * *

In his second special report on United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) dated 14 July, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali indicated that UNTAC military deployment had been proceeding and was now almost complete, "with some 14,300 troops in the country and the remainder en route". The phase II - which commenced on 13 June - should have been completed within four weeks. In fact, he observed, as a result of the refusal of one party to take part in that process, and because of the need to ensure that

(more)

this process is undertaken in such a way as to maintain the military balance between the four parties, barely 5 per cent of the estimated 200,000 soldiers had been cantoned by that date.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also reiterated that the principles embodied in the Paris Agreements represented "the only viable means of restoring peace and prosperity to all the people of Cambodia" and urged the Cambodian parties to carry out immediately the obligations relating to phase II of the cease-fire, as set out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia on 26 May 1992.

The first special report of the Secretary-General on UNTAC to the Security Council was issued on 12 June.

* * *

The city of Goradze, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, remains blockaded following the refusal by the leaders of the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) to allow members of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to enter the city in order to evaluate the humanitarian needs of its population.

In a press communiqué issued yesterday in Geneva, the UNHCR stressed that it wants to visit Goradze, a town of 20,000 people providing shelter for up to 50,000 others displaced by fighting elsewhere in Bosnia-Herzegovia, in order to determine its food and medical needs prior to sending a road convoy of relief goods.

Goradze has been cut off from humanitarian aid convoys since April when the last UNHCR relief supplies reached the community.

In a separate development, UNHCR announced that some 100,000 Afghans have been crossing the border from Pakistan at a rate of 15,000 a day, bringing to nearly 600,000 the number of Afghans who have returned home since the beginning of the year. The rush to the border - which started in late April - shows no sign of abating despite a severe shortage of funds to help the returnees start a new life in their war-torn country.

In a press release dated 15 July, UNHCR also indicated that in the week ending July 12, a record number of Afghans had returned home from Pakistan, as part of the largest and fastest repatriation program assisted by the Agency.

UNHCR spends $2 million a week in providing each returning family with transportation expenses. The cash - which averages out at $23 per returnee, along with some foodstuff provided by the World Food Program (WFP), is probably the only help most of the returning Afghans will receive from the international community to restart their lives.

Despite recent contributions from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the total amount received to date by UNHCR is less than a third of the $53 million requested for this year's repatriation program.

(more)

* * *

The Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, left last night for Iraq, in order to secure for the United Nations inspection team immediate access to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad.

A spokeswoman for the Secretary-General today told correspondents that Mr. Ekeus was expected to arrive in Baghdad tomorrow, Friday, 17 July, and was due back in New York on Sunday, 19 July.

The standoff in Baghdad between the Iraqi authorities and the members of the United Nations Special Commission inspection team started on July 5, when the inspectors, who believe that documents relating to Iraq's ballistic missile proscribed programme are stored in the Ministry of Agriculture, were denied access to the building. The Iraqi side claims that no such documents are stored there and contends that such a search would violate its sovereignty.

Since being denied access to the building, the members of the Commission - who keep a round-the-clock watch to prevent the removal of material from the Ministry - have been subjected to several acts of harrassment. The Security Council demanded on 6 July that the Government of Iraq immediately admit United Nations inspectors to the building and stated that Iraq's refusal to comply constitued a "material and unacceptable breach" of section C of the so-called cease-fire resolution 687 (1991), adopted after the Persian Gulf war.

* * *

Some 80 per cent of the $225 billion flow of foreign direct investment registered in 1990 originated from or was directed to the United States, Japan or the European Economic Community, and many of the developing countries needed assistance to help them attract such investment, United Nations officials told the Washington Press Club today.

In presenting the World Investment Report 1992: Transnational Corporations as Engines of Growth, Hamdan BenAissa, Director of the Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the Departement of Economic and Social Development, explained that the research had focused on the contribution made by transnational corporations to the growth of developing countries.

Azizul Islam, Chief of the Development Policy and Analysis Unit, pointed out that transnational corporations contributed not only capital, but also assisted in the transfer of technology and the development of human resources. However, as David Gold, Chief of the Global Issues Unit, said, those corporations were attracted to the more successful, middle-income developing countries, and many - especially in Africa - had not been able to attract and benefit from their presence. Technical assistance and support through development aid would be needed to help those countries develop as potential hosts to foreign direct investment, he concluded.

* *** *

8751P

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1185
17 July 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council responds positively to the request that it make arrangements for supervision by United Nations Protection Force of all heavy weapons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, following the ceasefire agreement signed today in London between the parties to the conflict.

+ UNPROFOR confirms death of two French officers, killed by mine near Zadar; Force Commander appoints Cedric Thornberry as Chairman of Joint Commission established in accordance with Security Council resolution 762 (1992).

+ Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State of the United States, is appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General to South Africa; to travel to South Africa early next week.

+ Secretary-General and Security Council condemn the murder of Fijian member of United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq and call for immediate investigation.

* * *

The Security Council has decided in principle to respond positively to the request for the United Nations to make arrangements for the supervision by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) of all heavy weapons - combat aircraft, armour, artillery, mortars, rocket-launchers, among other - in compliance with the agreement between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina signed in London today, within the framework of the Conference on Yugoslavia.

In a Presidential Statement read out by Council President José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) this afternoon, the members of the Council call on the parties to declare immediately to the Force Commander of UNPROFOR the locations and quantities of the heavy weapons to be placed under supervision, and request the Secretary-General to report by Monday, 20 July, on the implementation and resource implications of this decision.

The Council also welcomes the provisions in the agreement concerning the return of all refugees and freedom of movement for civilians caught up in or

(more)

trapped by the military situation. It further welcomes the efforts being made to mobilize international assistance in handling the refugee problem under the aegis of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The statement also calls on all parties and others concerned to observe scrupulously the ceasefire throughout the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, the Council expresses its satisfaction that the talks on future constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina are to resume in London on 27 July 1992, and urges all parties to contribute actively and positively to these talks, "so that a peaceful solution is achieved as soon as possible".

The adoption of the Presidential Statement followed the signing earlier today at London of an agreement between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A copy of the agreement was transmitted to the Security Council in a letter from the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

According to the text, the parties agreed to a 14-day ceasefire, effective Sunday, 19 July, throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. During that period, all the parties undertake to explore measures for strengthening the ceasefire in the longer term and agree not to initiate fire of any sort, even under provocation. They also agree that "all refugees will be permitted to return to the places from which they have been expelled and that civilians who are caught up in or trapped by the military situation, will be given freedom of movement".

* * *

UNPROFOR has confirmed the death of two French officers from the French battalion in Sector South. The incident occurred at 6 p.m. local time, when the officers stepped on a land mine at Zemunik airport, north east of Zadar.

In a separate development, it was announced today that after successful consultations with all the parties concerned, the UNPROFOR Force Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, had appointed Cedric Thornberry, as Chairman of the Joint Commission established in accordance with Security Council resolution 762 (1992).

The other three members of the Commission will represent the Government of Croatia, the local authorities in the region and the European Commission Monitoring Mission (ECMM), respectively. It is expected that the date of the first meeting will be announced early next week.

The Joint Commission, as described in the Secretary-General's report to the Council dated 26 June, will oversee and monitor the process of restoration of the Croatian Government's authority in the so-called "pink zones" -- areas of Croatia which have been controlled by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), and in which there is a substantial Serbian population, but which lie outside the agreed boundaries of the United Nations Protected Areas. In the circumstances which had arisen, the Secretary-General proposed, and the Security Council

(more)

approved, a series of measures which would be taken, under UNPROFOR's supervision, to avoid further conflict in the region and stabilize the situation.

* * *

Mr. Cyrus Vance, former Secretary of State of the United States, was appointed today the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to South Africa. In a press release issued at Headquarters, the Spokesman of the Secretary-General indicated that Mr. Vance would travel to South Africa early next week.

The appointment of Mr. Vance follows a two-day meeting of the Security Council on South Africa and the adoption of a resolution inviting Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative to recommend measures which would assist in bringing an affective end to the violence in that country, and in creating conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

During the Council debate, most speakers called for the appointment of such an envoy. In a press conference following the debate, the Foreign Minister of South Africa, Roelof (Pik) Botha indicated that his Government would welcome Mr. Vance's visit.

* * *

In a statement issued last night, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he was deeply shocked to learn of the murder yesterday of a Fijian member of the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq, Ravuama Dakia, and condemned "this appalling act perpetrated against a member of the United Nations humanitarian personnel deployed in Iraq". He ordered an immediate and thorough investigation of the killing.

The Security Council, in a Presidential Statement this afternoon deeply deplored the murder. It supported the Secretary-General's decision to order an immediate investigation of the crime. The members of the Council expressed their condolences to the family of the victim.

The Council also registered its profound concern at the deteriorating security conditions affecting the safety and wellbeing of United Nations personnel in Iraq. It demanded that the attacks perpetrated against the United Nations Guards Contingent and other humanitarian personnel deployed in Iraq cease immediately and that maximum cooperation be extended by the authorities in investigation of the crime as well as in the protection of United Nations personnel.

This incident comes just over a week after two Austrian members of the Guards Contingent were injured when a bomb was tossed into the garden of the house where they were quartered.

The Memorandum of Understanding on United Nations humanitarian operations in Iraq expired on 30 June and Iraq not yet agreed to its extension.

* *** *

8786P

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1186
20 July 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Iraq "was prepared to invite experts from neutral and non-aligned countries to visit the building" of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; two United Nations guards slightly injured by explosion today in Sulaimaniya.

+ Deterioration of situation "in and around Sarajevo airport" leads to suspension of humanitarian aid; Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina warns that conflict could trigger major war in region.

+ Secretary-General appoints Layashi Yaker of Algeria as Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Benon Sevan to be reassigned as Assistant Secretary-General in office of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

* * *

Iraq "was prepared to invite experts from neutral and non-aligned countries to visit the building" of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, according to Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament. The proposal was made during the talks he held on Saturday and Sunday in Baghdad with Iraqi authorities, including Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein.

At a press briefing tonight, Mr. Ekeus also told correspondents that he had conveyed the proposal to the Security Council earlier this afternoon, together with his own assessment of the situation. He stressed that, while in Baghdad, he had warned the Iraqi authorities of "serious, even tragic consequences" for their country if it persisted in its refusal to authorize the members of the United Nations Special Commission to inspect the building. The members of the Commission contend that documents relating to Iraq's ballistic missile prohibited programme are stored on the premises, while the Iraqi authorities claim that such a search would violate their country's sovereignty.

(more)

Mr. Ekeus also told correspondents of the rapidly deteriorating security situation of the Commission personnel in Baghdad, who have been increasingly subjected to acts of harrassment.

Mr. Ekeus had been sent to Baghdad last week to emphasize the importance that the Security Council attached to the inspection by the Commission experts of the Ministry premises. Following Iraq's refusal to authorize access to that building - on 5 July - the Security Council had demanded that the Government of that country immediately admit United Nations inspectors inside the Ministry, stating that non-compliance with the request constitued a "material and unacceptable breach" of section C of the so-called cease-fire resolution 687 (1991), adopted after the Persian Gulf war.

In a separate development, the Spokesman of the Secretary-General told correspondents today that a booby-trapped car had exploded this morning outside the United Nations Guards' headquarters in the northern Iraqi city of Sulaimaniya, slighly wounding two guards. The incident took place about 15 minutes before the guards' daily morning lineup.

The incident is the third one in the past 10 days: last Thursday, a Fijian member of the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq was murdered by unknown assailants, and a few days earlier two Austrian members of the Contingent were injured by a grenade tossed into the garden of their quarters.

The Memorandum of Understanding which sets the modalities for United Nations humanitarian operations in Iraq, expired on 30 June and Iraq has not yet agreed to its extension.

The Spokesman also told correspondents that Assistant Secretary-General for General Services, Richard Foran, was presently in Baghdad after having spent a few days in Kuwait. Mr. Foran was in the area "to oversee the continued return of property, as planned for the next three months, and to negotiate the location at which military equipment is to be returned".

* * *

The situation in and around Sarajevo airport had "seriously deteriorated" and the airlift of humanitarian aid had been suspended, the Spokesman of the Secretary-General told correspondents today. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported that one hangar had been demolished and the control tower had been hit by bullets, and two Canadian observers had been hit by shrapnel and were hospitalized.

Three planes - an Italian plane from Pisa, a French plane which had taken off from Split and a Canadian plane which had taken off from Zagreb - had been in the air, on their way to Sarajevo, when the decision to suspend the airlift was made. All three, he said, had been ordered back to their bases. Since the airlift began on 3 July, up to the last flight yesterday, 280 flights carrying 3,346 metric tons of humanitarian supplies had landed in Sarajevo; 17 countries had participated in these operations.

(more)

At a press conference at Headquarters, the Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haris Siladjzic, warned that if the international community did not act to halt the conflict in his country, it could trigger a major war in the area and terrorism in Europe. It had already done damage to Europe, he said, because it had "dehumanized the face of the world".

He expressed hope that the ceasefire - scheduled to have started last night - could still work. He pointed out however that preparations for a new offensive were underway even as the peace talks were taking place in London.

The situation in the town of Gorazde, whose population has been enduring heavy shelling, was of particular concern. "If the town of Gorazde falls into the hands of the aggressors, I'm afraid there'll be another massacre," he said.

* * *

The Spokesman of the Secretary-General told correspondents today that Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Layashi Yaker of Algeria as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), effective 13 August 1992. Mr. Yaker will replace at this post Issa Diallo, interim Executive Secretary of ECA, who will be reassigned.

Mr. Yaker has served as Algeria's Ambassador to a number of countries. Since 1989, he has been an International Consultant to UNESCO in Paris.

The Spokesman also told correspondents that the Secretary-General had reassigned Benon Sevan to the post of Assistant Secretary-General in the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Vladimir Petrovsky. In his new position Mr. Sevan would deal with the Security Council and the General Assembly. Mr. Sevan had served as Secretary-General's Special Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1187
21 July 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council in unanimous decision demands that the "Party that has failed so far to do so permit without delay" the deployment of all components of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia; requests that international assistance to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia "from now on only benefits the parties which are fulfilling their obligations".

+ New Prime Minister of Yugoslavia invites United Nations observers to check that Yugoslav Air Force is not involved in military activities outside its territory; eleven humanitarian flights land at Sarajevo airport today.

+ Some 15 people worldwide with AIDS symptoms, but no sign of HIV virus, reported at AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.

* * *

In a resolution unanimously adopted tonight, Security Council members strongly deplored the continuing refusal by one of the parties to permit the necessary deployment of all components of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to the areas under its control to enable UNTAC to carry out its full functions in the implementation of the Paris Agreements.

The Council also demanded that the Party that has failed so far to do so "permit without delay" the deployment of UNTAC personnel, and requested the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to ensure that international assistance to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia "from now on only benefits the parties which are fulfilling their obligations under the Paris Agreements and cooperating fully with UNTAC"

The text also urged all parties to cease all hostilities forthwith, to cooperate fully with in the marking of all minefields and "to refrain from any deployment, movement, or other action intended to extend the territory they control or which might lead to renewed fighting".

(more)



For information media—not an official record

The resolution also urged all States, in particular neighbouring countries, to provide assistance to UNTAC to ensure the effective implementation of the Paris Agreements, and approved the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to continue to implement the Agreements despite the difficulties.

The Council's action followed its consideration of the Secretary-General's second special report on UNTAC dated 14 July, in which he noted that UNTAC military deployment had been proceeding and was now complete, "with some 14,300 troops in the country and the remainder en route".

However, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also indicated that as a result of the refusal of one party to take place in the phase II of the peace process - which implies the cantonment and disarmament of the four parties' armed forces - barely 5 per cent of the estimated 200,000 Cambodian soldiers had been cantoned by that date.

Finally, the Secretary-General reiterated that the principles embodied in the Paris Agreements represented "the only viable means of restoring peace and prosperity to all the people of Cambodia" and urged the Cambodian parties to carry out their obligations relating to phase II of the cease-fire.

Before the vote of the Council tonight, a number of speakers, including the permanent members of the Council, expressed their deep concern at the difficulties met by UNTAC in the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreements and voiced their support for the efforts by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in accelerating the implementation of the peace process in Cambodia.

* * *

The new Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Milan Panic, today presented a letter to the President of the Security Council inviting the Council to send United Nations observers to all army air fields in Yugoslavia to monitor and check that the Yugoslav Air Force was not involved in any military activities outside its territory. He asked the Council to consider and accept his initiative quickly, as "one of the steps along the road to peace and stability".

Addressing a press conference at Headquarters today, Mr. Panic said that the invitation was the first in a series of peace initiatives he was prepared to offer. His first objective, he said, was to stop the killing, regardless of who did it or how it happened. To that end, he had "started to give the orders for no Serbian arms of any kind - tanks, aircraft or helicopters or personnel - to be used in the Bosnian conflict".

In a separate development, the Spokesman of the Secretary-General reported that eleven humanitarian flights had landed at Sarajevo airport today, one more than scheduled. Mortar fire around the airport today caused a one-hour interruption, but the flights resumed thereafter.

(more)

The Spokesman also announced that a soldier with the Nepalese contingent had been killed accidentally in Sector North. His death brought to eight the number of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) casualties since the operation began.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in a press release issued today, said that UNHCR's ability to deliver relief supplies from Sarajevo airport to the city had been diminished because at least five of the 12 trucks used for that purpose had been hit by shrapnel and rendered inoperable during yesterday's shelling.

* * *

Some 15 people worldwide who exhibit symptoms of AIDS, yet have not tested positive for the HIV virus, reported Dr. Michael Merson at the eighth International Conference on AIDS in Amsterdam today. However, the Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization (WHO) stressed that further research was needed on the development.

According to the WHO official, most of the cases are in the United States. He urged the redoubling of prevention efforts, saying that if the disease was infectious, "it most likely will be spread like the AIDS virus".

Another major concern today was the rapid spread of HIV among women, through heterosexual transmission. Because of their increased vulnerability, Dr. Merson said, the number of women with HIV could surpass the number of men with HIV by the year 2000.

The WHO estimates that three-quarters of all HIV infections are transmitted through heterosexual intercourse. The problem appears to be particularly serious in parts of Africa and South and Southeast Asia.

* *** *